

now their duty to ensure that they faithfully execute existing laws to benefit the American people. If they fail to do so, or intentionally sabotage the current healthcare system, they will surely be held accountable by the American people.

Democrats don't want to see that happen. We reject the premise of some kind of death spiral. By the way, the Congressional Budget Office—an independent bipartisan group, but its director appointed by Republicans—said it was not only not on a death spiral, but it was stable.

The yardstick by which we all ought to be judged is not whether the law succeeds just enough, but whether we can work together—work together, work together—to make the law work as best it can, to benefit as many Americans as it can.

President Trump, speaking at that rostrum, looked directly into the TV camera of 100 million-plus Americans and said: I want every American to have health insurance that will be cheaper and higher quality than we have today.

Mr. President, if you send such a bill to this House, I will vote for it. I haven't seen a bill like that, but if I see it, and if you send it down here, and that is your commitment, I will vote for it.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my friends across the aisle will take a lesson from last week that, to paraphrase the President, health insurance is indeed complicated, and that it will truly take both parties working together towards consensus to meet the healthcare challenges we face.

Our constituents and our country is counting on us not to fight, not to throw bricks at one another, but to act in their best interest. And what I urge the Trump administration to do, Mr. Speaker: Do no harm until you have a bill that accomplishes what you said to the American people you want to accomplish. Mr. President, do no harm. Ensure that the American people continue to have access to affordable, quality health care.

HONORING SERVICE OF DR. THOM MASON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. Thom Mason, who has served as the director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 10 years. Thom joined ORNL in 1998 as a condensed matter physicist, and quickly demonstrated his talents as a visionary scientific leader.

He led the completion of the one-of-a-kind Spallation Neutron Source, which has provided a decade of exceptional research. When promoted to lab director, Thom led ORNL to many other successes: the development of

two supercomputers which at different times ranked as the most powerful in the world; and ORNL's Manufacturing Demonstration Facility, which is revitalizing American manufacturing.

Thom served our community as chairman of the Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation, leading the multimillion-dollar expansion of Oak Ridge High School; and as chairman of Innovation Valley, a regional economic development partnership.

Thank you, Dr. Thom Mason, for many years of dedicated service to the great State of Tennessee and our Nation.

□ 1030

HEALTH CARE, NOT WEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will say today what I said when we were working to pass the Affordable Care Act, what we said when we were having some 181 witnesses to appear over a 2-year period having 79 hearings: I said then that I would fight to make sure that health care would not become wealth care in the richest country in the world. I still stand on that basic premise.

We cannot allow health care to become wealth care in the richest country in the world. Wealth care is where the wealthy will receive the very best care that is available; and the poor will get care, but it won't be health care. It will be sickness care. It will be sickness care because, when they are sick, they will be able to go to an emergency room and get care. When they are sick, they will be able to get emergency care, which will cost all of us more, but they won't get preventive care. They will get stabilized if they have diabetes, but they won't get the continued care that they need to treat that disease. We don't want, in the richest country in the world, health care to become wealth care.

Recently, we had a piece of legislation that was going to accord the 400 richest families in this country \$7 million a year. That was what the bill would have done that failed. The 400 richest families making \$3 million a year would get \$7 million additional every year in the final analysis ad infinitum. That is \$7 million additionally.

We are the richest country in the world. We can afford to take care of those who find themselves living in the streets of life who cannot take care of themselves. We cannot allow health care to become wealth care in the richest country in the world. How rich are we? Well, one year a man made \$3 billion. By the way, he is not the only person to make this kind of money. I just use this kind of example.

A minimum wage worker making \$7.25 an hour, it will take that worker 198,000 years to make \$3 billion. That man making \$3 billion will get the best

wealth care this country can afford. But we have got to make sure that those who are working at minimum wage, working full-time, living below the poverty line, make sure that they get the best health care.

I am a proud Texan. I love my State, but I don't like what we have done when it comes to health care. Texas has refused to help those living in the streets of life. We look out for those living in the sweets of life. We take care of them. But Texas has the opportunity to receive \$100 billion—with a B—to expand Medicaid.

Medicaid expansion, this is for those persons who are not as fortunate as we are here in Congress who will have the best health care in the world, by the way, as we cut health care for those who cannot afford it, as we cut the expansion of the Affordable Care Act for those persons who would get Medicaid, as we cut Medicaid. We are going to have good health care.

Texans who happen to be oil barons and rich, are going to have good health care. We are going to have good health care. But those who need Medicaid, who could benefit from the \$100 billion that the State of Texas has refused to accept and has never said that it wasn't needed, are not. There has never been a case made for a lack of need for the \$100 billion to help Medicaid expansion for people who are in need of help and need of health care.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow this in the richest country in the world—and we are. Don't let people try to convince you that we are broke. We are not broke. We can afford to take care of people who need health care.

I will close with this: we ought to have a sense of responsibility for every person in this country who may get sick. There is this notion of, but for the grace of God, there go I. If we had been fortunate enough to have good health, remember, you may not always. But for the grace of God, there go I.

ANTI-SEMITISM AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last Congress, I joined several of our colleagues in forming the Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism.

As a co-chair, a distinction that I am proud to share alongside my pals, ELIOT ENGEL, CHRIS SMITH, TED DEUTCH, KAY GRANGER, NITA LOWEY, PETER ROSKAM, and MARC VEASEY, it is important to call attention to anti-Semitism in all of its forms and to work to root it out whenever we can. I am also extremely honored to have been named by Speaker RYAN to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council earlier this year.

As we know, it was the anti-Semitic attitudes across Europe, in the 1920s

and 1930s, that gave rise to Hitler and the Nazis who exploited the deep-seated hatred of Jews to take power, culminating in the systematic and deliberate murder of over 6 million Jews during humanity's darkest period, the Holocaust.

In these capacities, I intend to continue to raise awareness on the rising level and this trend of anti-Semitism worldwide and to take actions against it, as I have done for many years now.

The fight against global anti-Semitism must start with strong U.S. leadership. We have the means, we have the leverage, but we must be resolute in our efforts to stem the tide of anti-Semitism and to reverse it.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we hear about the dangers of anti-Semitism across the world and how, in many places, Jews are being targeted in an alarmingly increasing trend. But I want to highlight an area that needs to be brought into greater focus when we discuss combating global anti-Semitism. It is something that an old friend of mine, Natan Sharansky, so succinctly and astutely described.

Natan and I have had the opportunities to discuss everything from anti-Semitism to oppression in Cuba, my native homeland, and in Russia; and his insight is extremely valuable.

What Natan Sharansky has helped define is the new anti-Semitism and what he calls the three Ds: double standards, demonization, and delegitimatization. And I think the clearest example today of Natan's three Ds can be seen unfortunately at the United Nations with its anti-Israel, anti-Semitic agenda, most notably at bodies like UNESCO, UNRWA, the U.N. Human Rights Council, and other U.N. bodies.

All of these clearly exhibit the double standards: condemning Israel based on faulty or illegitimate claims, while ignoring the very real problems of other member states. Israel is repeatedly and singularly isolated, targeted, and demonized. And, of course, there is no other nation that is subjected to efforts to delegitimize it or its existence like Israel.

So what do we need to do? Well, we have to look around at what agencies are doing. The efforts at UNESCO to erase Jewish historical and cultural ties to their ancient homeland, Jerusalem, have been appalling.

The move by the Human Rights Council to establish a blacklist to target individuals and entities that do business with Israel, legitimatizing the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, BDS, and the efforts to take Israel to the International Criminal Court or to force Israel to agree to a one-sided peace plan, these all reach the height of delegitimatization.

All of this is taking place at the United Nations, the body that was forged in the aftermath of the Holocaust and World War II. We need to fight the scourge of anti-Semitism on all fronts, Mr. Speaker, and not just at the U.N.

But if we fail to reverse the systematic and endemic anti-Semitism at the U.N., we are going to have a hard time achieving much success in any of our other endeavors.

That is why I will introduce a bill soon that addresses these problems at the U.N., and I urge my colleagues to join me in an effort to defeat the intolerance wherever and whenever it appears.

Anti-Semitism is one of the world's oldest forms of hatred and, for too long, has gone unaddressed. We have a responsibility to the Jewish communities worldwide, and we have a responsibility to ourselves to root out this hatred in all of its forms, once and for all.

THE POLITICAL CLASS AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, you can divide this country into two classes of people, not Republican and Democrat but the political class and the rest of the country. The political class is doing better than ever.

Eleven out of 20 of the richest counties in America are in the D.C. metro area. For every dollar the average family in D.C. earns, the average family in Davie County, where I live, earns 55 cents.

The political class is alive and doing well for themselves. On the other hand, those who are not oriented to government—doctors, auto mechanics, waitresses, bartenders, factory workers—are still earning exactly what they did 10 years ago. I am not the first person to point this out, but I want to speak about a textbook example of how this dynamic plays out in reality.

I am referring to a recently announced \$418 million arms deal between the U.S. and Kenya. It is for 12 airplanes that are essentially armed crop dusters. There is only one slight problem with the deal, the defense contractor that was chosen to fulfill the sale doesn't even make these type of airplanes. They have never done it before. In fact, there is an extra \$130 million built into this deal to design a whole new airplane.

IOMAX USA, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business in my district, makes these airplanes. They have been doing it for 7 years. They have got 50 of these airplanes in the Middle East. These planes have dropped more than 4,000 bombs on ISIS. They are the only U.S. manufacturer of this type of aircraft.

They were not even considered for the deal, which was awarded without competition. Nobody got a chance to bid. Nobody knew about it, except for the company that got it and the bureaucrats who were involved.

That is how the D.C. area got so wealthy. If you know the right people

and you have the right lobbyists, you get awards like this from the Federal Government without competition. It doesn't matter if you don't even make the product, they will give you some extra money to design it from scratch if you know the right people.

IOMAX, a small business just like the millions of others in our country, doesn't have those connections. The giant defense contractor involved in this deal does, and so they get the money. Something is wrong with that picture.

The problem lies with a secretive acquisition unit within the Air Force called Big Safari. Now, I don't say "secretive" lightly.

At one point in 2013, Big Safari's commanding officer told a reporter: Don't be angry or upset when your Freedom of Information Act gets turned down; that is just the way we do business here at Big Safari. And the commander's words were true.

I asked for information on this, and they turned me down saying that the information was sensitive, but unclassified, and for official use only. I asked them 19 questions, and they answered only four of them having to do with the very basic elements for the deal that were already public.

Under that secrecy, Big Safari doles out billions in government contracts. I imagine it makes things convenient for when Big Safari employees go to work for the same companies to which they direct these large defense contracts, which we have found that they do with some regularity. You don't even have to go to a different building, in some instances. We have got a confirmed case of a Big Safari employee awarding a contract, quitting, and then going to work on the same program with the same company he has just given the contract to.

The forgotten men in this equation are the employees of IOMAX, mostly veterans, mostly blue collar, who have to compete against a \$13 billion defense contractor and a \$4 trillion Federal Government that appears to have forgotten impartiality.

We need to shine the light on this deal with congressional oversight, and we need to ask ourselves who exactly the Federal Government is supposed to be working for, the country or for the political class.

Mr. Speaker, we need to fix this. It is a symptom of a very serious disease that our democracy cannot long survive.

□ 1045

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOE ROGERS, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Joe Rogers, Sr., the co-founder of Waffle House, who passed away on March 3, 2017, at the age of 97.